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Saturday, August 12, 1911.

For summer climate, Salt Lake City enjoys and offers the best there is.

Uncle Sam is getting more islands. What Sancho Panza will he send to govern them?

If it is against the law to wear a dead bird on a hat in New Jersey, perhaps the ladies can wear live ones.

Carnegie is a great and conspicuous advocate of peace. But will he make peace with Frick? And does he forgive Gates?

The only thing in America that really stirred Admiral Togo out of his Oriental eslim was an electric locomotive. He boarded it and talked to the engineer the whole length of the journey.

Loss by smoke, \$600,000,000 a year; in fires, \$250,000,000 a year, and all in America, most of it preventable. What a rich people we would be if we had a little sense in caution with our vast capacity for amassing wealth!

And so, members of the British House of Commons are to be paid \$2000 apiece, yearly, hereafter. The pay is moderate compared with the \$7500 we pay to our Representatives in Congress, and doubtless the money will be fully earned.

Mr. Saxey writes on the decadence of Republicanism in Utah compared with the virile, stalwart Republican of his younger years. It is a condition not a theory, with which Mr. Saxey deals, and it is a condition as conspicuous as it is disgusting to all who know the record of the party.

The Logan Republican, in noting that The Tribune criticizes Sutherland's speech, says this is like a midge running up against a giant. But which is the midge and which the giant? Certainly, in his controversies with The Tribune, Sutherland has thus far never shown any gigantic qualities or results.

The referees in the wool tariff in the conference committee between the Senate and House, have agreed on the wool duty, fixing it at what will amount to 29 per cent ad valorem on raw wool, being an average cut of about 40 per cent on the present duty. And now we'll see what the two houses will do about it, with doubt overhanging.

The visit of Admiral Togo to the battleships Utah and Arkansas and to the Argentine Moreno, building in the shipyards at Philadelphia, the latter vessel being the biggest of all, was a joy to the grim old fighter. A battleship is the specialty of Togo, and in the inspection he made he was thoroughly at home, and his wonder and appreciation were evident to all who saw his moves.

Perkins thinks that nothing more than publicity is needed to curb trust evils, and in a way he is right; but it should be full publicity, not such publicity as the trusts themselves might direct. The evils of trust-managed publicity was exemplified by Frick and Gary when, concealing their real purpose and what they had been doing, they told President Roosevelt just enough to get a snap judgment which served their purpose.

The church organ denied again last night that there is a polygamy question in Utah, this well knowing the untruth of its denial. And its venom against the American party took the usual form of vindictive vituperation and bearing false witness. Nothing will suit the News but the yielding by all to the absolute domination of the priesthood in all matters, religious, political, social, and financial. And so it will never be suited.

The prosecutions of monopolies and trusts have the good effect of showing some of the trust magnates "where they are at." Here's Henry Clay Frick, for instance, who never sensed that there was any impropriety in his being in contradictory positions until he saw the results of probing into the trusts; and this probing has shown him the inconsistency of letting his right hand rob his left, so he resigns from the Union Pacific directorate where he was in clear conflict with

other directorships which he held. So much is gained.

PRESIDENT SMITH IN COLLIER'S.

It is surprising to find, as we do in the current Collier's Weekly, a letter from President Joseph F. Smith, signed officially as "President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." It is even more surprising to see the contents of that letter; this in reply to a communication of Mr. Harvey J. O'Higgins in Collier's of June 10th, which was an answer to President Roosevelt's letter in Collier's of April 15th. Mr. O'Higgins's answer to Col. Roosevelt left the ex-President in a much-damaged condition. This President Smith evidently realizes, for he rushes to the rescue.

The first portion of President Smith's letter is devoted to the incident of the report of his address at the opening of the last April conference here. This matter has been thoroughly threshed out here, and the fact thoroughly established that the quotation which was objected to, and which was printed in The Tribune, was an exact reproduction of what purported to be the official report of a portion of his conference address as printed in the Deseret News of the evening of April 6th, that part relating to marriages. And still, President Smith speaks of distortion, of substituting "plural" marriages for "civil," and alleges that the Salt Lake Tribune telegraphed changes and perversions to the Los Angeles Examiner. The truth is that The Tribune printed the report of President Smith's remarks precisely as that report appeared in the Deseret News, the official organ of the church. The Tribune did not telegraph anything at all anywhere, and no one telegraphed anything on any authority whatever from The Tribune. The Los Angeles Examiner printed the matter on the same morning that The Tribune did, and what it printed was the official report made by the Deseret News. All this has been gone over time after time here, and the fact thoroughly established as The Tribune states it. To find President Smith bringing this matter up in a distorted form at this late day is, indeed, an amazing thing. Three months after the incident had been thoroughly threshed out, and three months after The Tribune had thoroughly made out its case just as here stated, President Smith recurs to the old false charge, and presents it anew. He does not even give The Tribune credit for stating its belief that the President could not mean what he seemed to mean as reported by the Deseret News. It was entirely natural that the Los Angeles Examiner men who handled the report should take the view of it they did; but they did not get that view from The Tribune, but from the official report in the official church organ, printed in that organ within quotation marks, showing apparently that it was the stenographic report.

The latter part of President Smith's letter in Collier's is devoted to the usual attempted vindication of the church from the responsibility for new polygamy, and for the continued polygamous relations. We have so recently gone over all of this matter that it is hardly worth while at this time to do more than epitomize a few of the leading facts.

The petition for amnesty pledged obedience of the Mormon people to the law. Joseph F. Smith, as an Apostle of the church, signed that petition. The amnesty was granted by President Harrison and President Cleveland on the condition stated, that the laws were to be fully obeyed.

Before the Master in Chancery, President Wilford Woodruff, who put forth the manifesto, testified that it meant the cessation of polygamous relations already entered into. President Lorenzo Snow, who succeeded Woodruff, testified to the same interpretation of the manifesto. President Joseph F. Smith also testified that the manifesto meant that; that it couldn't mean anything else.

In the proceedings before Congress, that were entirely in the hands of the Mormon church and its representatives, to recover the escheated property, the showing was made that complete submission had been made to the laws, and that the escheated property ought to be restored, because the conditions under which the escheat had been made no longer existed; that complete submission to the laws had been had. In the preamble of the resolution making the restoration of this escheated property, it was expressly recited that the restoration was to be made because all resistance to the laws had ceased; and that the laws were being fully obeyed.

and to his own perspicacity when he reopens this question, which has been thoroughly settled against his view long ago.

REV. MR. TALBOT IS RIGHT.

We commend to the attention of the public as faithful testimony the remarks made by Superintendent Talbot of the M. E. Mission at the opening of the Conference of that mission in this city on Thursday. Dr. Talbot speaks with reserve, and after abundant and long experience and full inquiry into the subjects about which he speaks. He speaks conservatively, moderately, yet with emphasis and power.

His remarks were directed especially to the matter of the prevalence of polygamy and polygamous living in Utah, and when he says that "candid people do not attempt to deny that considerable polygamy exists in Utah today," he speaks the sober, well-established truth. And when he proceeds to say further, "nor can any one deny that much of it is 'new' in the sense that it has been entered into since the ban was laid upon it by the laws of the State, and by agreement of the organization which had previously permitted it," he is still on safe and solid ground. There is no question whatever but that he speaks conservatively and truly in so speaking.

Dr. Talbot's further remarks were printed in The Tribune yesterday morning, and must find an echo in every honest heart here that is conversant with the situation. He was naturally shocked by the report of a talk given recently in Portland, Oregon, by Apostle John Henry Smith, declaring that there is no polygamy in Utah. Dr. Talbot finds that such a denial as this is not credible, and he finds it difficult to believe that any one could have made such assertions as are attributed to Apostle Smith in that interview.

Dr. Talbot brings forth these points, because, as he explains, people in other States have a right to know the conditions that the Methodist Mission faces in Utah. He justly says that the Nation at large should understand the situation, because the things mentioned influence the methods and results of all Christian work here.

As a solution for the trouble, Dr. Talbot declares "it is his conviction, arrived at after considerable opportunity for consideration, that polygamy is so firmly grounded in this State that it will not be obliterated in Utah until, in some way, the Federal Government is vested with power to deal with it." This evidently looks forward to the adoption of the proposed constitutional amendment vesting in Congress the power to legislate on marriage and divorce. The need of such a constitutional amendment becomes more apparent every day. Since President Smith at the April Conference expressly withdrew any objections to that amendment on the part of the Mormon church, there ought to be less difficulty in getting Congress to pass up this proposed amendment, and put it before the States.

It is heartsome to see gentlemen like Superintendent Talbot take up the situation in Utah, and deal with it in plain, straightforward terms. It is a tower of strength to right thinking and right action here, as well as to right effort in getting proper results, to find men of his attainments, sagacity, moderation, and wisdom, speak out plainly on conditions as they exist in Utah. Dr. Talbot deserves the thanks of the public for his plain words, which must necessarily have an important effect, not only locally, but in the Nation at large.

THE LORDS SUBMIT.

As confidently expected by those who had watched the political developments in Great Britain, the House of Lords, by a meager vote, it is true, and yet by a vote that is sufficient, accepts the dictum of the House of Commons, and shears itself of its absolute veto power on the legislation of the Commons. The victory of the Commons is therefore complete in principle; and yet the methods of exercising the complete control by the Commons of revenue and taxation are roundabout and tedious. The Lords may still delay legislation for two years, and may interpose temporary vetoes from time to time on such legislation; but the main thing is that the Lords surrender the principle, and they also surrender the power of designating what is financial legislation to the Speaker of the House of Commons. That official has a position and prestige quite different from that of the Speaker of our own House of Representatives. In his presiding capacity he is not a member of either party, but a servant of the House, and in a way he is also its master. He has the power of declaring adjournment, and in his office he is superior and inviolate in a way that is not dreamed of in the Speakership at Washington. And so, in submitting the determination of what is financial legislation to the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Lords, in fact, submit the question to what is really an impartial tribunal.

The submission of the Lords was unquestionably made, as pointed out heretofore in these columns, as the avoidance of one of two evils. Even the "last ditchers" did not hope by their resistance to win the main point in controversy. This main point was lost inevitably, no matter what the House of Lords did; for, if the "last ditchers" prevailed, the main point was purely lost in the flood of new-made Lords that would override the old when the final vote came; so that there was nothing to win or to save on that. But, by yielding to the Commons, the Lords could preserve their peerages from invasion by the common lot. To have a creation of three hundred to five hundred new peers would so dilute the nobility, that there would be but scant distinction between that and the common folk. And so, out of the serimurage, the Lords have preserved their exclusiveness, but have lost their power. Yet, since their exclusiveness is all that they could save, there can be no question but that, from their standpoint, they chose the wiser part.

The British constitution is therefore vitally amended; and a long step is taken towards exclusive popular rule. So far as all financial legislation is concerned, the British Parliament from henceforth may be fairly considered to be but a single chamber, the House of Commons. The Lords from henceforth will count but little in that, and that count will be less and less as time goes on.

ROOSEVELT ON ALASKA.

Col. Roosevelt is out with a sledge after President Taft on the latter's throwing open to entry of a tract of public land on Controller Bay. The fact that he himself as President threw open two tracts in a way to create monopolies, if any monopolies could be created, and has been sharply criticized for it, has evidently touched him on the raw, and he undertakes to justify himself and to condemn President Taft. It will be easier for him to justify however, than to condemn, for President Taft did in a more cautious, reserved, and lawful way the same opening of land that President Roosevelt did in a less cautious, less reserved, and more monopolistic fashion. Roosevelt threw open the lands to the Guggenheims and to Ryan just the size tracts that they wanted, where there could be no competition. President Taft threw open alternate strips on Controller Bay, guarding the water front in such a way that no monopoly is possible. So that, in doing practically the same thing so far as allowing development is concerned, President Taft proceeded in a much better and more lawful way than did President Roosevelt.

As for the general question of opening Alaska to settlement, Col. Roosevelt seems to consider that Alaska bears some special relation to the people at large and to the Nation different from the public domain elsewhere; and that the public rights need there some particular guard and guide that has not been needed heretofore in the settlement of the public domain of the United States. It is difficult, however, to realize this point of view as a practical proposition. The public domain of the United States, wherever it may have been, was of no value to the people, or to the Nation, when left in its natural state. Its value accrued only when the people settled upon it, developed it, reduced the wilds to cultivation, and spread civilization and wealth wherever the settlements were made. Of what value to the Nation was Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, or any of the unsettled portions of the country until the pioneers occupied and redeemed it? Of what value was any part of the country west of the Mississippi river to the public until settlers came upon it, opened the land and developed the resources? In like manner, of what value is Alaska to the people of the United States, unless it can be utilized?

The assumption seems to be all through that immense capital is necessary to reclaim Alaska, to open settlements and industries, and develop resources; and President Taft and Col. Roosevelt are at one on the proposition that capital entering this field ought to receive assurances of due reward. But, that is opening a line of special treatment of capital that has never been opened heretofore in this country. Capital always comes in when the pioneers open the country, and capital is always willing to take its chances under the laws and practices of this country as they have existed from the first. Capital and capitalistic combinations are ready to go into

Alaska on the same terms as they have gone into other newly settled regions of the country heretofore. There seems to be no reason why laws that have worked so well hitherto in the settlement and development of the United States should not work just as well in the settlement and development of Alaska. As a matter of fact, Alaska was getting on very well until the conservation idea hit it and paralyzed it. Under conservation, however, Alaska stood absolutely still for the ten years from 1900 to 1910, because no one was allowed to go in there, to use the timber, use the water power, to open coal mines, or to do anything except prospect and mine for gold. The ten years' paralysis is still upon Alaska, put there by the conservation fad. All that is necessary is to lift that embargo, allow settlers, prospectors, and capitalists to go into Alaska and open and develop the country under the laws that have proved sufficient in other parts of the country in the successive waves of emigration and development.

What Alaska needs in particular is a Territorial form of government, and a free hand to get on and develop her riches, agriculture, mineral, timber, and water power, just as new regions have developed naturally hitherto in the progressive settlement and opening of the public domain in the United States from the first. The pretense that Alaska needs something extraordinary, and especially that special and unprecedented assurances are to be held out to capital, that it will be afforded recognition and allowed to reap due profits, is an abominable thing to take root in a Republic. Let capital take care of itself; let the settlers take care of themselves, giving each a free hand as has been the rule in this country from the first. That rule will work just as well in Alaska as it has worked in other portions of the Republic. Let the people alone to proceed under the law, with lawful guarantees of protection in their rights, and that is all that is needed in Alaska, just as it is all that settlers and capital have needed at any time in opening the public domain of the United States.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Office of the board of public works, Salt Lake City, Utah, July 28, 1911. Sealed proposals will be received at

this office until 8 o'clock p. m. August 21, 1911, for the work of constructing about four miles of ditch including all grading and road according to plans on file in the engineer's office. Instructions to bidders, together with plans, profiles, specifications, and for contract and bond, can be upon application at the office of board of public works or the city engineer, a deposit of \$5 being required. The right is reserved to reject all bids. By order of the board of public works, H. G. McMILLAN, Chairman.

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